

California GARDEN

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Time to Plant—Stocks

OCTOBER
1937

Pest Control
By R. T. Jumper

Long Range
Forecasts
By Dean Blake

Winter and Spring
Bloomers
By Kate O. Sessions

Dahlia Notes
By Frederick G. Jackson

San Diego Floral Association



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No. 4

Winter and Spring Bloomers . . .

By Kate O. Sessions

All the fall catalogues have tempting lists and fine illustrations of bulbs in particular—but for this climate there are only a few that are economical for the small garden and last from year to year by increasing.

Every garden needs some winter and spring bulbous flowers. The ranunculus and anemone mixed varieties can be planted as seed in September and early October and if by bulbs should be set out by November. Their bulbs may last for years if dug and cared for.

The freesias in mixed colors, or plain color if you prefer, are excellent and last for years and their seeds scatter and flourish about the garden. If planted early they are late January and early February bloomers.

The smaller Narcissus, Campernelle, poeticus, and daffodils last for years, can be transplanted as they increase for more borders and larger beds or shared with friends. The snowflake not snowdrop is a permanent bulb and very desirable. It is called the "Fair maid of February." Its botanical name is Leucoc-jum vernum,—vernus for the green spot on the tip of the petal.

If one wishes to indulge in tulips, the May flowering varieties are best for this climate, being early spring bloomers here, in colder climates in May.

One should have at least a few of that new blue lily the Glory of the Sun, such a choice blue and a lasting and fragrant cut flower, and they can be increased by saving your own seed.

For October flowers there is the rare pink Nerine filifolia with its threadlike evergreen foliage and its exquisite small pink blossoms. I have a dozen at my home and the same at the nursery that will bloom next month. This bulb used as a border enclosing the freezies and the snowflake bed with its evergreen foliage will be useful as a fence-like marker. The scarlet nerine is pretty but it blooms when foliage is dormant and generally is forgotten and destroyed.

The small annuals from seed for early and winter bloom are the nemesias in mixed colors and the mixed blues, Virginia stock used as a low border, the native Baby Blue Eyes or nemophila, the lavender tinted common allysum and the very dwarf white variety.

Calendulas, the improved forms and shades of yellow, snapdragons and stock in choice colors are a necessity and so easily grown. Our native sea dahlia and hunnemannia are practically ever bloomers.

September planted sweet peas in a deeply dug and generously fertilized trench give Christmas and early flowers.

Our New Editor

In presenting Mr. Thomas F. McMullen as our new editor, the directors feel that an explanation of the changes is due to members of the Floral Association.

Mr. Osborn had for long wished to retire because of the press of other duties. This Spring the condition of his health definitely necessitated his resignation, which we accepted with deep regret.

Mr. McMullen has been a teacher of Botany, an author of numerous articles on floral problems, a reviewer of books, and has always been interested in landscape effects. He agreed to take over the editorship. However, he was studying at Stanford this summer and could not take up the duties until this number.

At Mr. McMullen's suggestion, his friend Mr. John Wimmer was invited to take over the editorship during his summer vacation, and kindly consented to do so. He has made a splendid start at the work in which we hope that he will continue to cooperate.

We wish our new editor a long and successful term in "ye editorial chair."—The Board of Directors.

Receipt of the above communication suggested to me that perhaps John Wimmer would continue his editorial connection. He has consented to act as Associate Editor and we are assured of his valuable help. We feel that two "eds" are better than one.

T. F. M.

Long Range Forecasts

By Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

About this time of the year a great deal of interest and concern is displayed in the weather to be expected during the winter, and many requests are received at the Weather Bureau office for predictions of temperature and rainfall. Unfortunately, to each and every inquirer we are compelled to reply that there is no method or index yet discovered that enables us to forecast with any degree of accuracy for more than a day or two in advance.

Of course, there are those who profess to be able to foretell the weather months in advance. Some are plainly charlatans seeking notoriety; others are conscientiously working along scientific lines, but an analysis of the predictions of both groups shows that as yet no method is employed that is accurate enough to be adopted with any degree of success.

Of the methods used at present, cycles, sea-water temperature and solar radiation are proving most satisfactory. It is well known that for many years Dr. G. F. McEwen of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography has been issuing personal precipitation forecasts for Pacific coast districts with considerable success, using as the basis cyclical recurrences and the temperature of the California ocean current for ten weeks beginning with August, and more recently has been predicting mean temperatures for each month from the same basis.

The other promising method, that of solar radiation, is based on the variation in the energy received from the sun. It is admitted that changes in the amount of heat given off by the sun are directly connected with the succession of weather events on the earth, but as yet no one has successfully coupled this activity with ensuing weather conditions in any particular part of our globe, and, while considerable research is going on, this method is still in its experimental stages.

It must be remembered, moreover, that from an agricultural standpoint,

the distribution of precipitation, and the temperature extremes are as important as the seasonal amount of rain or the average monthly thermometer readings. Wet years may not be favorable crop years, and cold winters may not necessarily result in severe damage, and thus far none of the predictions has been anything but general in its application both as to time and area.

We can dismiss without comment muscular aches and pains, the behavior of insects, birds, flowers or animals, the phases of the moon, and innumerable other indices so frequently employed, as these repeatedly have been shown to have no foundation. We must look farther and deeper for the solution of the long range forecasting problem.

Unquestionably long range predictions are the ultimate goal of weather forecasting, and this being true, the Weather Bureau has been sympathetic to all attempts to solve the problem along scientific lines. It will be to our advantage to use them just as soon as they can be successfully utilized.

Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of articles by Dean Blake dealing with weather problems. These should be especially helpful to our readers, for particular reference will be made to conditions as they affect gardening activities. Watch for them and let us know how you like them.

Note From Abroad

Dr. Raphael and Mrs. Lorini sent greetings from Interlaken, in early August where every window and balcony of rich and poor alike is ablaze with splendid geraniums, nasturtiums, petunias, etc. Twelve days were spent at Luzern awaiting sunshine and cessation of daily rain storms. At Zermatt the famous Matterhorn, its white top so small, the majesty of the great mountain was enjoyed. Montreal and Chamonix were their next objective and then Paris. In San Diego this coming winter we should spend an enjoyable evening with them.

HINTS FOR FUCHSIAS

By Bertha M. Thomas

Keep in mind that Thrip and Red Spider will call on you this hot weather if you have neglected to keep plants in healthy condition.

Fuchsias are particularly susceptible unless kept moist and fertilized. We keep them on the northeast and west, banked against the house and they have not had a single unwelcome guest this year. With the hot dry weather San Diego has been through, we feel quite jubilant that not a single leaf on the 100 plus varieties but what is in perfect condition. And we believe it entirely due to keeping roots moist and also protected from heat of sun. If these two conditions are fulfilled the tops do not object to some sun (just homeopathic doses however.)

Of course one must always give any plant a proper supply of nourishment—that "axiom" applies to all living creatures, plant and animal. And for that food, give it in regulated quantites and time, just as you take your own meals. Fuchsias seem to appreciate a variety—and that given them about once a week, in moderation. But they need water every day (in extreme hot days maybe twice) and about every third day sprinkle the foliage, although one must do this only in evening else leaves and blossoms will suffer.

Last spring we read of a woman who proclaimed she made her pin money by keeping a hospital for the sick plants of friends. And her medicine was the water from soaking crushed egg shells in it for a few days. It seemed the infinitesimal amount of albumen and lime thus to be obtained was scarcely worth while but a faithful trial convinced us we could buy fertilizer much cheaper although it may be possible we were not purchasing the right brand of eggs (?). Her idea seemed ridiculous. But seriously, good animal fertilizer applied occasionally is always needed—then blood and bone for a light top dressing as condition of plants requires. This seems to suit ours which are all outdoors. Also Iron Oxide seems to be a good side dish for the roots—it seems to enhance color and is also a repellent for some animal life.

GARDEN STROLLS WITH THE EDITOR

No place like a garden to get acquainted with folks. One never lacks for conversation if it's only to say, "What lovely green aphids you have on your roses, Mrs. So and So!" But I am going to try to talk of more pleasant things than pest control till we get better acquainted. Hope that this won't be entirely a one-way conversation—that you will write in and tell me of your garden experiences and what you would like to read in your magazine.

Berried shrubs are coming into their own at this season of the year. Hard to choose which ones you want in your garden. One nice thing about our system of planting from cans, if we see something in flower or fruit we like, we can plant it right out instead of waiting for a fall or spring planting like so many folks do who depend upon deciduous plant material.

I like that Pittosporum rhombifolium for fall berry decoration. The berries seem just the right shade of waxy orange for autumn effects. Can be trained as a shrub or would make a small symmetrical tree up to 25 feet. I've seen it used as a street tree and believe it has possibilities as such.

The species name reminds me of another rhomboid-leaf plant, *Vitis rhombifolia*. You perhaps know this grape ivy as an outdoor subject but did you know it was suitable for pot culture indoors? Even with our all year garden season we like a few plants in the home and this one is worthy of addition to a rather limited list of "hardy indoor specimens."

Have your tree dahlias been especially fine this year or are mine just getting better established? Seems like the crepe myrtle is prettier than it ever has been too. And they said the roses were unusual this year. Suppose there's any connection with the cold weather we had last winter? It may be just a notion but it seems like the deciduous plants have all done exceptionally well this year.

Bulb planting time is with us. Every garden has room for just a few more. Remember last year how you vowed you were going to have enough ranunculus (or was it frees-

ias) for cutting? Well, now is the time to order.

Here I am taking your time when you should be doing your fall planting. October is the time to plan and plant for winter color, you know, so I'll be back next month to see how you are getting along.

NOTES OF THE 31ST ANNUAL FALL SHOW

Miss Sessions at her accustomed post. Always a crowd around listening to her interesting discussion of unusual shrubs in her exhibit. I liked the *Acacia pubescens* with a delicate feathery leaf. This was the first specimen grown in San Diego, but there will be many more before long. *Calothamnus asper*, a new form from Australia was also an interesting plant. The showy, colored flower bears crimson stamens.

How did you like Rosecroft's winning display? Made you want to go home and dress up your own lath house. And that "best" dahlia in the show from Rosecourt Floral—a pure white seedling, American Purity—should stimulate interest in dahlia seedlings.

I see those two dahlia fanciers, Fred Jackson and M. C. Pfefferkorn both won blue ribbons. Both stamp collectors, too. Wonder if they count the perforations on the blossoms.

Those three irate women from the mid-west who asked Mrs. Greer why she didn't label everything. Someone had pointed out the zinnias to them and they thought flowers that large should be dahlias.

Overheard two young things discussing Rosecroft's fern, *Polypodium knightii*. One said it was knight-i, the other said knight-ee. Clothed in either it was a beautiful specimen. And with that I will go to bed.

October Meeting

Mrs. Greer has announced that Roland Hoyt will speak at the October meeting of the Floral Association on Design in a Small Garden. Mr. Hoyt is well known to our members, being a landscape architect and writer of note, and we are looking forward to his lecture.

DAHLIA NOTES

The Board of Directors announces a new dahlia class for the Flower Show of August, 1938, open only to novice members of the association. (A novice is one who has never won a prize for a dahlia.) The entry is to be a vase of five large dahlias. These may be of one or more varieties or forms, but large. Shows, poms, miniatures, etc. are barred. They are to be judged on the same basis as the other classes of large dahlias. A special first prize will be awarded.

The object of this class is to encourage the casual dahlia growers to greater efforts, and to reward them. Many of our members with small general gardens have room for a few dahlias. It is hoped that next year they will take more interest in and care of these splendid decorations.

This is the season to review the performance of your dahlias and to decide their relative fates. If a plant has not borne well, or you don't like the color, or the stems are weak or crooked, be firm. Mark the label to discard it. If you are proud of another plant, mark its label with the number of tubers from it that you want to plant next Spring.

This is a good time, while your memory is fresh, to plan the layout of next year's dahlia garden, locating each plant so that it has the emphasis that it deserves and arranging colors so that they don't clash. You may want to provide places for one or more tubers that you will buy on the basis of those you saw at the shows. This is a good time to place your orders.

Now that the shows are over, you should aim at the Winter tuber crop. No more disbudding. Let the plants grow large and the blossoms small and they will have to develop a strong root system. Cut down on the watering. It is the unfortunate seasons when the plants look worse and worse, but we must suffer it. The longer the plants stand this Autumn, the bigger and better the tubers will be. Try and bear with them until Christmas, remembering their past glories and the greater ones that you hope are to come.

Pest Control

By R. T. JUMPER

The following authoritative article was submitted at our request by Mr. R. T. Jumper, of the California Spray Chemical Co., makers of the Ortho line of products. Similar articles will be published in later numbers.

The current gardening season being past its high peak of spring and summer fervor the tendency is to let the bugs have their way with what is left of this year's plantings. While this will result in no permanent harm in the case of annuals, some consideration should be given to the future health and beauty of perennial flowers, roses, shrubs, and trees. This article will deal then with a few remarks about fall spray treatment and a general discussion of insect pest control in the home garden, looking forward to next season's spray practice.

No brand names of products are mentioned but any dependable store specializing in garden supplies can supply one or more standard brands of material suggested.

Roses should continue to receive treatment for Mildew, Aphis and chewing insects, to protect fall blooms and foliage; at least one more good spraying with a combination Oil Spray and Nicotine preparation, with the addition of Lead Arsenate or a Fluorine Compound, if chewing insects are skeletonizing leaves or eating buds.

Citrus trees should be sprayed with an Oil Spray Emulsion at once for the control of Scale Insects and Red Spiders. Generally a light-medium Oil Emulsion is used at 2% dilution (1 part to 50 parts water.)

Many ornamental shrubs such as Cotoneasters will be found to be infested with Aphis, Scale or Mealybugs which in addition to direct damage have given off a honeydew secretion in which a Black Smut Fungus has become established, causing a black, smutty appearance. In such cases spray with an Oil Spray-Nicotine combination to kill the insects. A second application may be necessary. About a week after the second application

thoroughly hose off the shrubs to clean up the smutty coating.

Evergreens may be infested with Red Spiders, Scale Insects or Mealybugs. Thorough spraying with an Oil Spray is the general practice for control of any or all of these pests.

General Spray Practice

Unless one wishes to make of himself an expert in entomology and chemistry the only practical way to keep the upper hand in the war of man vs. Insect that must go on in the garden is to group the pests according to their method of attack and their weaknesses and to fight with materials that will wipe them out by groups. Then scout for signs of their approach and enter each recurring battle before they have time to become well established in their positions and before they have done irreparable damage. With these aids at hand, together with a knowledge that there are bound to be recurring attacks with each new generation of pests, and a fraction of the persistence shown by the pests themselves, the home gardener can keep them under control without great difficulty.

The several hundred different plant pests of economic importance can be grouped for control purposes into the three primary and two secondary groups which are discussed below.

1. Chewing or leaf-eating insects that normally inhabit the plant. These include Beetles such as Diabrotica, (twelve spotted or "Green Lady Bird"), Beetles; Worms or Caterpillars such as Genista Caterpillar, Oak Moth Worm, Codling Moth Worm, etc. This group is controlled by spraying or dusting the plant with Lead Arsenate, or some other "stomach poison." The insect eats the poisoned plant and is killed. Eggs of these insects may likewise be killed by spraying with Petroleum Oil Spray which smothers the unhatched insects. Frequently a combination of Lead Arsenate and Oil Spray is employed.

(1-a) Night Feeding Chewing Insects and other pests that do not normally inhabit the plant. These include Snails, Slugs, Sow Bugs and Cutworms which hide away in some dark or damp place in the daytime

and come out after dark to feed. This group is controlled by scattering a poisoned bait, about the garden.

(1-b) Soil inhabiting chewing insects that attack the plant stem or root below the ground surface. These include wire-worms, root-maggots, etc. These are controllable with cyanide, paradichlorobenzene or other soil fumigants.

2. Sucking or sap-extracting insects that normally inhabit the plant and feed on it by sucking the juices from the sap streams rather than actually eating the woody parts. These include Aphis, Thrips, Red Spiders, Scale Insects, Mealybugs, White Flies, etc. Smaller in size, but present in countless numbers and often rapidly reproducing generation after generation, this is the most injurious group of all. They are killed by use of "contact" sprays. Nearly all species of sucking insects are killed either by Nicotine or Petroleum Oil, hence, a combination "contact" spray containing Petroleum Oil and Nicotine will control most members of this group. Frequent sprayings are necessary as these insects reproduce so rapidly. Dusting with Nicotine or Rotenone Dust is also recommended for control of Aphis or Thrips, but not for other species. Likewise, a Petroleum Oil Spray, used without Nicotine, will control Scale Insects, Red Spiders, and some species of Mealybugs.

3. Fungus Plant Diseases are also very troublesome, particularly the powdery mildews that attack roses, delphinium, peas, and a number of other plants, and Curly Leaf Disease that attacks both fruiting and flowering varieties of peach and nectarine. These and many other diseases are caused by tiny fungi, (parasite plant growths), that live on our garden plants. These are best controlled by preventive measures, spraying or dusting with copper or sulphur materials such as Bordo, Nicotine or Sulphur before the disease infects the plant. Oil Sprays are also somewhat effective against some of these diseases, particularly Powdery Rose Mildew. Sulphur and Oil Sprays are incompatible and must not be used on plants at the same time.

31st Annual Fall Show

By Frederick G. Jackson

The San Diego Floral Association held its Fall Flower Show in Balboa Park on August 28th and 29th. The temperate summer, with absence of any dry spells, had been especially favorable to growing plants. This was shown by the display of the largest, best formed, and most attractive blossoms that have been assembled there in many years. The space was so generous and so well arranged that the entire exhibition was the most appealing to the eye that we have ever held.

Zinnias have grown rapidly in favor and the classes were very large, not only for the familiar old types and the newer modifications, but also in their arrangements. They made a vivid splash of color near the entrance.

Dahlias, another stand-by of our Fall Shows, furnished keen competition in all classes. The outstanding displays were three. A vase of five glorious American Purity, enormous white semicactus entered by the Rose Court Floral Co. These were adjudged the best dahlias in the show, and few questioned the judges' decision. Mr. James Coffroth entered without competing a long table of glorious blossoms that were a joy to behold, and Mr. Herman Lodge had a splendid collection from his nursery. If the truth were known, many of us would be surprised at the number of these and other prize winners that came from seeds ripened in his nursery.

Miss Kate Sessions is always a center of attraction at our Shows. Her many friends and admirers gather around her to welcome her and hear her preach the doctrine of careful planting and extol the virtues of new discoveries or importations. Her exhibit of rare plants serves as her text. Although she entered without competing, the Board of Directors voted her a medal for her exhibit.

Mr. Robinson had a wonderful exhibit of begonias from his world

famous gardens. These colorful and exotic plants always attract especial attention from visitors. Even more than the big dahlias, they give one the feeling first that "taint possible," then that it needs a patient wizard to grow them.

Mr. Morley's exhibit from the Park gave exactly the right air of luxurious, mysterious tropical growth to the entering visitor. One intriguing huge blossom of Anthurium evoked so many enquiries that it became necessary to have its name on a card.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lane had a most artistic arrangement of roses just in front of the Park exhibit.

The exhibit of gourds was most attractive and interesting.

The classes of flower arrangements, table decorations, including miniatures, and shadow boxes, have never been so well done. They have been growing rapidly in popularity in recent years.

Great credit is due to the various chairmen, both new and experienced, who had charge of the various sections, and to the general spirit of cooperation that prevailed throughout the Show.

PACIFIC GARDENS

Southern California's new garden publication, *Pacific Gardens*, was greeted with much interest. Complimentary copies of the first edition out September first were sent to our membership and were very favorably received. This is a weekly newspaper for southland's amateur gardeners and one which should fill a need among all classes of gardeners.

Ernest Braunton, nationally known writer and lecturer on horticultural subjects, is the editor, and this alone should insure the success of the project. Mr. Braunton is well-known to our readers, having contributed many articles to *California Garden*. The paper is being published in Glendale.

Book Reviews

Those of you who met Montague Free when he was in California not so long ago will greet with especial pleasure his recently published book "Gardening" which is veritably what it claims to be, "A complete guide to garden making" (N. Y. Harcourt, Brace, and Company, \$3.50).

Montague Free is, as you will remember, the horticulturist of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; he has held the post for seventeen years. You may have read his garden column in the *New York Sun* or heard of his radio talks.

The book encompasses a tremendous range of horticultural matters and is Mr. Free's reply to many requests for just such a volume. It belongs on a handy shelf not too far from the spot where any average gardener is carrying on his endeavors. For more than twenty years Mr. Free has been answering the questions of just such gardeners, has learned what their problems are and here gives them the solutions.

There are plenty of illustrations, seventy-three half-tones and one hundred and twenty-five line drawings. The thirty-two chapters begin with "Selecting and Planning the Property", and with reminders for "The Gardener's Year", and in between cover everything from grading technique to plant labels. It will be hard for a gardener to think of any more questions to ask when once he has acquired Mr. Free's "Gardening." — Lester Rountree, Carmel, California.

H. M. Butterfield's *Home Floriculture In California* has been revised and is now available. It is Circular No. 53 and may be had for the asking from the College of Agriculture, University of California at Berkley. It contains 168 pages of useful information. This is one book that you will refer to often and one which no local gardener should be without.

A Northern California Garden Picture

Coralinn B. Tuttle

Tucked against tree clad hills behind the broad acres of the famous Beaulieu vineyards in Napa Valley, is the charming country estate of Mr. and Mrs. George de Latour. The simple rambling white cottage has a background of enormous spreading oak trees against which Madame de Latour has created, with the help of a fine staff of gardeners, an almost perfect garden.

Here is a restful elegant simplicity one seldom finds in the riotous gardens of California. Most of us find it difficult to resist stuffing our gardens with all of the beautiful flowers which respond to our climate and soil so easily. At Beaulieu are wide flung velvet lawns in front of the cottage and surrounding a sunken garden in which is a large oblong pool. Here in one corner floats a water lily's pad the only break in the clear reflection of the hills and trees. Low marble benches are placed in just the right position to afford beautiful vistas of a certain tree against the hills or historic Mt. St. Helena and small marble wood elves smile from the corners of the terraces. Edging the terraces are tree roses in all shades of flame against tall hedges of privet. Flower beds in front of the house contain only masses of salmon pink geraniums which are kept in uniform bloom by means of substitutes in the hot houses ready to replace those not exactly perfect. Window boxes of green along the many porches and under windows are filled with salmon pink Impatiens, while here and there are tall hollyhocks with hydranges at their feet all in the same shades of salmon.

West of the house is another formal garden with an octagonal pool. The paths are pointed with tall Ilex trees with dark glossy foliage. Here a note of blue is introduced with the prevailing salmon and pink shades. Delphiniums ten to twelve feet in height are in the background and blue and rose pansies border more rose gardens. A rare blue poppy with blossoms like toy balloons make a pretty bed in the foreground.

To the East is the tea garden sur-

rounded by native trees and shrubs. A veritable hedge of blue pansies two or three feet high edges the large velvety green lawn on which is set smart white garden furniture upholstered in King's blue. One can not resist repeating about the velvet lawns because such perfection is hard to find in our hot dry climate of late summer and I could hardly refrain from stooping to pat their coolness to see if they were real.

Not a dry leaf or wilted flower escapes the ever watchful eyes of the gardeners and I am sure that no weed ever dared lift its head within this garden's boundaries. The hot houses contain rare flowers and ferns for use in the house leaving the garden a perfect picture of quiet peace and beauty. A rare jewel of a garden set in beautiful Valley. As we drove home in the dusk we heard Anna Blake Mesquida talking over the radio and she was saying that in peaceful Napa Valley she had found healing for her sorrowing soul and as a tribute she had written a poem. With her permission I am using it as a fitting ending to the story of my visit to Beaulieu where I found for the time that sense of peace and happiness which one gets in a beautiful garden as in no other place.

God Walks Upon The Hills

God walks upon the hills! I saw

Him in the flight.

Of wild geese winging south at mourn: and when the night Came running eager down the stairway of the trees, God called my heart to rest with whispering of leaves; I found the hollow of His footprints in the grass Where yesteryear I watched the fires, devouring, pass: I heard Him in the brush when some young, timid deer Went down on little feet to drink the waters clear;

He laid His cool hand on my fevered soul, inrain— God walked the hills today. And He will walk again.

God walks the valley! Closed by mountains round, I saw His shadow tremble on the ground.

September Meeting

The September meeting was featured by a display and discussion of Hibiscus varieties. Miss K. O. Sessions brought a number of beautiful flowers and, in her own imitable way, told us of their suitability for our gardens. She also arranged a bouquet, using the Honolulu method of displaying the blossoms on the tips of long canes cut from palm fronds.

Our Vice President, Mr. McLean, gave us some valuable hints on pest control. He discussed the efforts of the government and the spray companies to give us new materials that are non-poisonous to animals and mentioned particularly cryolite, an aluminum compound used for chewing pests. He announced a new bulletin just published by the University on ant control in California. It can be secured at the Farm Advisors office —call Main 0124 and they will send one out.

A report was made by Mrs. Greer on the garden contest, the results of which appear elsewhere in this issue. Mrs. Greer read a letter from Mr. Poland of the art gallery thanking the association for its part in making the Huntington sculpture exhibit such a success. A report on the fall flower show was also given. 244 awards were made, the largest for any fall show. A profit of \$110.55 was realized.

Twelve hibiscus plants donated by Miss Sessions, the Milton Sessions Nursery, and Mission Hills Nursery, were given away and one plant was auctioned off, Senator Harper acting as auctioneer. Free copies of the new garden weekly, Pacific Gardens were also distributed.

Hear

ROLAND HOYT

at the

October Meeting

of

San Diego Floral Association

Tuesday Evening, Oct. 19

Floral Bldg., Balboa Park

Judging Committee Reports . . .

The Garden Contest Committee is happy to report that the contest opened in the Spring with twenty-six entries—a most gratifying number, considering Jack Frost's very shocking visit. Which visit by the way easily accounts for the fact that the Fall averages were consistently higher than those of the Spring.

Of the twenty-six entries, eight were of the Special Class for apartments and public buildings. We feel very grateful to the San Diego Consolidated Gas and Electric Company, the Automobile Club of California, and the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation who joined in this contest for the first time this year.

A city beautiful, we believe, is the ambition of all garden lovers. Beautiful public buildings are one of our greatest assets. We hope to encourage more and more of such delightful street plantings as we found around the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation to which a first award was made.

When we think what an electric sub station and power plant in the heart of our city might easily be like, we feel truly grateful to the San Diego Consolidated Gas and Electric Company for the splendid planting around its sub station at Fourth and Ash streets which merited second award.

The Original French Laundry with its unique planting of aloes and eucalyptus stood third.

The Automobile Club of Southern California planting is very new, and we are watching its development with a great deal of interest.

In the apartment hotel class, Park Manor with its splendid street planting and lovely walled garden ranked first. The Barcelona, with its broad sweep of lawn was second. A special prize was also awarded the Church of New Jerusalem on Campus Ave. This is a very outstanding and most consistently planned rock garden.

In the Garden Class, there were so many really lovely gardens

visited, we only wish space permitted mentioning the beauty and special points of each and every one.

In the large class, the beautiful formal garden of the Hildreth Peckhams was given the silver medal. The second award went to the Julius Wangenheim garden, so well known for its very beautiful fountain, pool and its delightful garden shelter and recesses. The third award went to the George Heyneman garden where a noble Incense Cedar grows, and one gets a glimpse of our bay over a low part of the garden wall.

An interesting feature of this year's contest is that two bronze plaques were awarded. In the medium class the plaque was awarded to the Samuel Durr garden, a real gem, where a lovely alder grows, and where a definite color scheme is followed in every detail. This same garden won the bronze medal in 1935 and again in 1936. The second award in this class went to the Ralph Crane Kline garden with its excellent lawn and shrub groupings. The specimen tree in this garden is a splendid melaleuca. Third prize went to Emily Clayton's garden, a new and very lovely place which has as its outstanding feature a most successful development of a rather steep west slope with prostrate shrubs and vines.

The other plaque was given to the Trevey garden, a very small, steep hillside garden to which the bronze medal was awarded in 1935 and again in 1936. Second award in this small garden class went to the Baxter garden—another example of most successful hillside planting. The third award went to the Chiodo garden, a truly lovely little garden entered this year for the first time.

Special awards went to the Bristol garden with its little informal pool, to the Lloyd Gray garden with its beautiful little lath house, bird bath and very splendid planting of maiden-hair ferns, to the Baxter garden for an unusual lathhouse

treatment of a rear hillside entrance. The Matt Heller garden was given an award for the most beautiful lawn, and the Hardy garden received an award for its begonias. The lath house in the Leonard Ellis garden was so lovely this fall with its beautiful tuberous begonias, and this spring an award was given it for its excellent English box and a beancarma of unusual size.

Besides the above mentioned gardens, we were fortunate to be able to visit the James Forward and the Milton Heller gardens, extending below the Matt Heller gardens and transforming the hillside into a sheer delight in color, accentuated by many beautiful trees. Interesting also were the Frederick Jackson garden with its planting of prostrate shrubs and vines to supplant a parking of lawn, the John Bellows garden commanding a superb view of an excellent stretch of lawn, and the Baxman garden which is another example of how a steep hillside can be made lovely with gay flowers and shrubs.

In fact all the gardens were so delightful that we regret space does not permit our telling you about all the beautiful things we saw in each one. May we take this opportunity to express our thanks to all of the contestants for their interest and splendid cooperation.

Mrs. L. A. Wright, Chairman.

In flicker of that butterfly's bright wing;
And in the lark's sweet note I heard God sing;
His breath blew from the river's bank across
The panting fields, where ripened wheat-heads toss;
And in the dark His face shone there afar,
Reflected on the waters from a star;
He pointed out the uptrail through my pain,
That I might walk the heights with Him again.

(By special permission from Good Housekeeping Magazine).—C.B.T.

GLADIOLUS: Cut spikes as the first florets appear and the others will continue to open, thus prolonging the blooming time.

Plants of Humboldt County . . .

In the July issue of the California Garden appeared a letter from Mr. Newton B. Drury, secretary of Save the Redwoods League. Embodied in the communication was an offer to members of the League to avail themselves of the services of Mr. Stanley Bee, guide and naturalist, who was stationed in the Garden Club of America Redwood Grove, Humboldt County. Acting on the kind offer, one of our subscribers spent several delightful hours under the leadership of young Stanley Bee, wandering over the trails of the grove and getting into the very heart of the wonderland. Stanley Bee is a young naturalist, just graduated from the University of California. He seems a part of the redwoods themselves, so full is he of the spirit and lore of the cathedral groves. He promised our subscriber that he would tell our readers something of his work and his observations made while studying and guarding the Garden Club of America Redwood Grove in Humboldt County. So here it is.

By Stanley Bee

In Humboldt County, in the heart of the Coast redwood belt, is situated the Garden Club Grove, presented to the State of California by the Garden Club of America. This summer, when I was acting as nature guide and custodian of the Grove, a visitor suggested that I write an article telling something about the plant life there for the benefit of those members who were not able to visit this section.

In the three thousand acres of the Garden Club Grove there is a great variety of vegetation. The section along the stream banks is moist and has redwoods, broad-leaved maples, Oregon ash, red alders, California laurel, western yew, and willows. The redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, is of course the dominant tree of this moist area, growing to great size, Founder's tree near Dyerville being 364 feet high and average large trees being 18 to 20 feet in diameter. The broad-leaved maple is a common stream

bank species, its beautiful pale green leaves contrasting with the dark green foliage of the redwood. The Oregon ash is one of the few trees in this region with compound leaves. In the deep canyons I found the Pacific yew, a comparatively small tree with foliage similar to the redwood. In the autumn the yew has bright red berries on the under side of the leaves. The California laurel is a very dense appearing tree, with bright green leaves. It is called pepper-wood by some because of its aromatic odor. The western dogwood, with large white blossoms in the spring, droops over stream banks in the cool canyons, and is associated with elks' clover, and ferns.

Further from the water on the drier slopes the Douglas fir is dominant; with it are associated, the tanbark oak and the madrone, with fewer redwoods as we ascend.

In the dry places, there are a few California buckeyes, beautiful in June with large clusters of sweet smelling white flowers.

The undergrowth of the redwood region is usually dense. The flora is more succulent and delicate than that on open hill slopes. Two varieties of huckleberry are found here, the blue with glossy dark green leaves and the red, with its foliage resembling that of the wild rose, which often grows near it. The salal resembles the manzanita, and has shiny light green leaves, with small white bell shaped flowers in the spring and dark blue berries in the summer. The poison oak is a common and much feared shrub growing in both open and shady places. Thimbleberry, with large yellowish green leaves, and bright red berries is quite common. Blue blossom or wild lilac makes delicate blue clouds of blossoms on the hill-sides in the spring.

Many of the most beautiful blossoms under the redwood, bloom in early spring. I found the trillium or wake robin, with the mountain iris, *Iris douglasiana*, and the clintonia, with its cluster of rose-colored bells,

shooting up from a circle of large polished leaves. This plant may be recognized later by its cluster of beautiful delft blue berries, resembling old fashioned blueing balls. Early in the summer there are the star flowers, *Trientalis europaea*, little pink star like flowers in a circle of pale green leaves, held up by slender stems, three or four inches.

All year long the redwood sorrel, *Oxalis Oregana*, makes a green carpet under the redwoods. In the summer it produces a delicate little white or pink veined flower. It can be distinguished by the fact that the three leaflets on each stem fold up in the evening and that the stems have a pleasingly sour taste. The Indian pink makes a bright red bit of color in the late spring.

There are other flowers which bloom in the summer season. These plants bloom longer as a rule, and are hardier. One of the most striking of these along the roadside with a background of bracken and tall ferns is the brilliant magenta fireweed. In midsummer, its tall sprays of blossoms are set off by clusters of pearly everlasting flowers and yellow goldenrod in sunny spots along the highway. The fireweed in late summer has millions of fluffy white seeds which float through the shafts of sunlight which filter down through the redwoods.

The ferns of this region are particularly beautiful and luxuriant. Along Canoe Creek which enters the Eel River in the Garden Club Grove, the pale sunlight sifting down through the redwoods and maples seems to be most suitable for fern growth, for along the overhanging banks are great clumps of five fingered, *Adiantum pedatum*, and in the stream bed are lady ferns, *athyrium filix-foemina* and Woodwardia radicans growing to great size and luxuriance. On the forest floors under the redwoods the ground is almost hidden in places by a thick growth of sword fern, *Polystichum munitum*, and braken. Sometimes old redwood stumps are covered with moss, and fern plants grow from the top, giving the appearance of tree ferns. Early in the spring California maidenhair ferns grow on moist banks.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Owing to lack of space in the last issue it was necessary to omit some of the write-up of Miss Rainford's discussion of floral arrangements. These notes were submitted by Helen Trevey and should be recorded here for the benefit of those who were unfortunate enough to miss the meeting.

Miss Rainford, in fixing a formal arrangement in shallow Dresden trays set in a circle about porcelain figures, explained that perhaps such formal table arrangements were not appropriate for Floral Society members accustomed to fixing more casual bouquets for their homes. Nevertheless, such arrangements are very popular and can often be used to carry out the hostess' party theme. Moreover, the low dishes make possible the use of fragile, short-stemmed flowers such as tuberous begonias and camellias.

The old idea of using white flowers only for funerals, Miss Rainford said as she selected some beautiful specimens of scabiosas and asters for an arrangement, has gone the way of all out-moded ideas, and today white flowers are used interchangeably with colored flowers in arrangements for all occasions.

On the subject of flower holders, Miss Rainford remarked that spike holders, so greatly favored by the Japanese, and heavy wire holders are probably the most satisfactory for general use.

Keeping cut flowers looking fresh is admittedly a problem, but there have been many methods suggested. Miss Rainford advises boiling the stems of most flowers, although cutting the stems under water is recommended for house bouquets, and aspirin is the only stimulant which will make tulips stiffen their stems and hold their heads erect.

Try out these ideas:

DAHLIAS: Dip the ends of stems in boiling water for a minute as soon as the flowers are cut, after which they may be put in cold water in the usual manner. Do not get the hot water on flowers or leaves.

POPPIES: Poppies, if not given special treatment are notoriously poor "keepers." If buds are cut early in the morning just as they are about to break and then dipped in

OCTOBER IN YOUR GARDEN

Lawns need renovating at this time. A thorough raking, fertilizing and reseeding now will insure a beautiful lawn for the winter months. This is especially true if your lawn is mostly Bermuda grass (and whose isn't?) for the Bermuda will turn brown with the first sign of cold weather. Apply a mixture of blue grass and clover, or rye grass, at the rate of a pound to 100 square feet.

For lawns that do not need reseeding an application of a complete balanced plant food—2 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet of lawn—will aid in maintaining a healthy color. Be sure to wet down the fertilizer as soon as it is applied.

Bulbs may be planted now and it is time to remake that perennial border. Set out plants of perennials and biennials now coming from seed such as primulas of the malacoides and polyanthus types, columbine and delphinium. Plant cinerarias and pansies. Sow in the open ground such seeds as lupines, nasturtiums, poppies (all kinds), larkspurs, nemophilas and bedding petunias.

Care of Conifers. Sometime in the late fall the Conifers in your garden should be sprayed with an oil emulsion to which "Black Leaf 40" has been added. We are cautioned, however, not to use oil sprays on two types of Conifers—the Araucarias which include the familiar Star Pine, and the blue Spruce, species of both these genera being especially susceptible to injury from this type of spray.

* * *

The memory of last winter's frost is still acute enough for us to make an especial effort this fall to put our plants in the best possible shape to withstand any adverse weather conditions which might arise. Also, feeding trees and shrubs properly has as much to do with keeping them free of disease as has spraying. Nitrogen fertilizer applied at this time will increase food and nitrogen storage and enable our plants to increase their resistance to injury and attack.

boiling water for a moment, they will hold up.

The Floral Association has been busy and happy this month in joining its efforts and its talents with those of the members of the Fine Arts Society in connection with the exhibit of sculpture by Anna Hyatt Huntington now on display in the Art Gallery. A committee from our association was responsible for the decorations, which formed the setting for the unusual sculpture and which were acclaimed by all critics an outstanding success. So arranged was the setting that a natural growing effect was achieved by the use of young gray eucalyptus, small bamboo and aralias. Magnolia blooms, foliage and seed pods very strikingly flanked the magnificent gallery staircase window. Our entire membership joined its forces with that of the fine arts society in staging the brilliant reception and preview held on the evening of September eleventh.

The committee acknowledged the splendid co-operation of Mr. Westgaard of Rose Court Floral Company and of the Park Board, who courteously supplied abundance of material.—A. M. G.

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